Kabra Committee

3063. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kabra Committee suggested that allowing of futures trading be restricted to only 17 commodities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that at present 80 commodities are allowed for futures trading/derivative trading;

(c) whether any committee set up by Government after 1991 recommended for strengthening Forward Markets Commission (FMC);

(d) if so, what are the steps taken by Government in that regard;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether the reforms package suggested by Kabra Committee followed by the World Bank funded grant for their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The Kabra committee had recommended that futures trading be allowed in 17 additional commodities apart from the six commodities already permitted for futures trading at that time.

(b) At present, there ar 103 commodities notified for commodity futures trading.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Kabra Committee (1994) and the Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Convergence of Securities and Commodity Derivatives Markets (2003), set up by the Government, have recommended strengthening of Forward Markets Commission. The recommendations have been suitably incorporated in the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2006 which has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 21.3.2006.

(f) No, Sir.

Enlarging scope of PDS schemes

3064. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Distribution System (PDS) is in force in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the existing schemes of PDS;

(c) whether it is a fact that the enlargement of PDS, covering a major section of the population, is being demanded all over the country;

(d) whether Government are considering to enlarge the scope of the scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Public Distribution System (PDS) evolved as a system of management of scarcity and for distribution of foodgrains at affordable prices. PDS is supplemental in nature and is not intended to make available the entire requirement of any of the commodities distributed under it to a household. The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was introduced with effect from June, 1997 and covers 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families including 2.50 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families and 11.52 crore Above Poverty Line (APL) families based on poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 on the population base as on 31st March, 2000. However, most of the States/ UTs have issued ration cards in excess of the Planning Commission's estimation. Under the system, the Government of India allocates foodgrains to the States for the APL, BPL and AAY families at the rate of 35 kg. per month per household. The Central Issue Price for wheat & rice for the above categories is a follows:

(Rs. per quintal)

Item	APL	BPL	AAY
Rice	830	565	300
Wheat	610	415	200

Apart from foodgrains, sugar and subsidized kerosene (SKO) is also distributed through the FPS.

Sugar supplied under the Public Distribution System (PDS) has been restricted to Below Poverty line (BPL) families in all States/UTs except the Northern Eastern States, Hill States and Island Territories with effect from 01.02.2001. The minimum perhead per month quantum of levy sugar allotted under the PDS was increased from 425 gms to 500gms with effect

from 01.02.2001. The Retail Issue Price of levy sugar is Rs. 13.50 per kg. which is uniform through out the country. The responsibility of regulating supply of sugar through the Pubic Distribution System and maintaining smooth operation of PDS in the State lies with the respective State Government.

PDS kerosene is an allocated product. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas makes allocation to States/UTs for further distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) network. The quantity of PDS kerosene for distribution per card holder is decided by concerned State Government/ UT and the same varies from State to State. The prices of PDS kerosene vary from State to State depending upon the Sales Tax and dealers, commission. The price of PDS kerosene in Delhi is Rs. 9.05 per litre.

(c) to (e) PDS already covers all sections of the population- Above Poverty Line (APL), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). The demand is to increase number of BPL card holders, which is 6.52 crore households at present, based on the Plannig Commission's poverty estimates of 1993-94, as applied on the projected population of March 2000. Against 6.52 crore BPL families, States have already issued BPL cards to 9.83 crore households, including AAY.

Reviving of NCDEX

3065. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted to revive the National Commodity Derivative Exchange (NCDEX) that was banned in early sixties;

(b) if so, the reasons for its revival as intermediary between the producers and consumers of agro products;

(c) whether the spurt in prices of pulses and staple commodities in the market is directly attributable to this in between NCDEX;

(d) if so, whether we should need such a mechanism in our economic scenario and the conservative market; and

(e) if not, the other contrubuting factors for such raise and the benefit common men derive from NCDEX?